

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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4/30/03

Applicant: Mark John DeBlock, et al. :  
Serial No.: 10/087,871 : Art Unit: 2862  
Filed: March 1, 2002 : Examiner: Reena Aurora  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS :  
FOR SEPARATING :  
ELECTRICAL RUNOUT FROM :  
MECHANICAL RUNOUT :

RECEIVED  
APR 29 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Office Action mailed March 26, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1-25 are subject to a restriction requirement.

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action, Applicants, with traverse, elect for prosecution in this application all claims belonging to Group I, i.e., Claims 1-8.

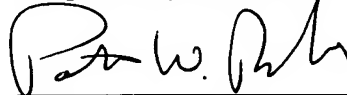
Reconsideration of the restriction requirement imposed under 35 U.S.C. § 121 is respectfully requested. The restriction requirement is traversed because the inventions set out by the claims in Groups I-III are clearly related. Applicants submit that a thorough search and examination of any claim group would be relevant to the examination of the other groups and would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. Indeed, at least the claims of Group I and the claims of Group III are encompassed by a single subclass (subclass 227) within Class 324. In addition, all three Groups are classified in Class 324. Accordingly, it is not evident how the searching of a single class, and even a single subclass, could present an unreasonable

burden on the Examiner. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is improper and should be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action with respect to all the pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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